

3. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing peripheral neuropathy comprising administering to an animal a protective amount of a *hedgehog* or *ptc* therapeutic.
4. (Amended) A method for protecting peripheral nerve cells under conditions which otherwise result in peripheral neuropathy, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a *hedgehog* or *ptc* therapeutic.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein each aromatic hydrocarbon is independently selected from the group consisting of benzene, perylene, phenanthrene, anthracene, naphthalene, pyrene, chrysene, and naphthacene.

The amended claims are restated below to reflect changes with respect to the last filing

3. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing peripheral [neuroathy] neuropathy comprising administering to an animal a protective amount of a *hedgehog* or *ptc* therapeutic.
4. (Amended) A method for protecting peripheral nerve cells under conditions which otherwise result in peripheral neuropathy, [compriseing] comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a *hedgehog* or *ptc* therapeutic.
22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein each aromatic hydrocarbon is [ondependently] independently selected from the group consisting of benzene, perylene, phenanthrene, anthracene, naphthalene, pyrene, chrysene, and naphthacene.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-51 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Claims 3, 4 and 22 are amended to correct typographical errors only. Applicants note that the scope of the claims has not been narrowed. No new matter is being presented. If any clarification of the Restriction Requirement or the above response would facilitate prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an